

# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



**MARK DAYTON**  
**GOVERNOR**

**Executive Order 17-12**

### **Directing State Agencies to Conserve Energy and Water, and Reduce Waste to Save Money**

**I, Mark Dayton, Governor of the State of Minnesota**, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

**Whereas**, operation of Minnesota state government generates pollution, consumes energy and natural resources, and contributes to climate change;

**Whereas**, sustainable actions positively impact the environment, human health, and the economy by preventing pollution, reducing energy and natural resource consumption, and minimizing climate impacts;

**Whereas**, state government, through changes in daily operations, ongoing programs, and long-range plans can have a significant positive impact on the environment, economic efficiency, character of communities, and leave a better world for future generations;

**Whereas**, strengthening sustainability in state operations leads to better government and smart stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Minnesotans deserve continual improvements to government operations, including sustainability improvements that will help save taxpayer dollars through avoided costs, increased efficiencies, and more resilient facilities and operations, along with enhanced environmental and health protection and job creation;

**Whereas**, strengthening sustainability across state government fosters innovation and reform in business practices which results in more efficient services for Minnesotans;

**Whereas**, state government has made significant improvements in sustainability across state agencies, including increasing energy efficiency on the Capitol Complex by 24%, avoiding \$2 million in energy costs annually; producing 50% of the Department of Military Affairs' energy from renewable resources; incorporating organics recycling on the Capitol Complex, at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Department of Natural Resources Complex, and Camp Ripley – diverting tons of solid waste from

landfills – and increasing the overall recycling rate on the Capitol Complex from 69% to nearly 80% in just one year;

**Whereas**, by working together across agencies, we can make even more progress;

**Whereas**, reducing fossil fuel use and increasing renewable energy use provides cleaner air and generates fewer greenhouse gas emissions, and also lessens the amount of resources needed to extract fossil fuels and moves Minnesota away from being an importer of coal and natural gas while creating local renewable energy jobs;

**Whereas**, using less water and making it cleaner after its use protects one of the state’s greatest economic and recreational assets;

**Whereas**, considering the environmental impacts of goods and services purchased by government can provide significant clean air, land, and water benefits and support green businesses in Minnesota;

**Whereas**, reducing our greenhouse gas footprint through more sustainable fleet, energy, water, solid waste, and procurement practices will reduce carbon pollution and achieve various environmental, social, and economic benefits; and

**Whereas**, the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act, Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116D, directs all departments of the state to promote efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment, and to improve and state plans, functions, programs and resources to carry out this policy.

**Now, Therefore**, I hereby order state agencies take the following steps to protect and enhance our environment, economy and the health of current and future generations:

1. **Sustainability Goals.** State cabinet agencies shall improve their operational practices to achieve the sustainability goals outlined below:
  - a. **Reduced Fleet Fossil Fuel Consumption:** 30% reduction of State Fleet consumption of fossil fuels by 2027 relative to a 2017 adjusted baseline;
  - b. **Reduced Water Consumption:** 15% reduction of Water use by 2025 relative to a 2017 adjusted baseline;
  - c. **Sustainable Procurement:** 25% of total spend on priority Contracts are sustainable purchases by 2025;
  - d. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** 30% reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2025 relative to a 2005 calculated baseline;
  - e. **Energy Consumption:** 30% reduction in consumption of Energy per square foot by 2027 relative to a 2017 adjusted baseline; and
  - f. **Reduce Solid Waste:** 75% combined recycling and composting rate of Solid Waste by 2030.

The enterprise sustainability goals and governance system outlined in this Executive Order replace those of Executive Order 11-13. The changes in this Executive Order will more accurately measure the impacts of state government on the environment and our natural resources. The governance system advanced here eliminates complicated, inefficient practices and duplicated effort. The new Executive Order improves the efficiency and accountability of state government work on sustainability, and aligns with best practices in the private sector.

The goals in this Executive Order may be updated by the Sustainability Steering Team if: these goals have been achieved and need to be reset, or better data becomes available. The Results Based Accountability principles will be used to develop any updates.

2. **Sustainability Enterprise Governance System.** To achieve these state sustainability goals, the following enterprise governance system is created:

a. **Sustainability Steering Team**

i. Membership:

1. Chaired by Lt. Governor;
2. Four permanent agency members of Department of Administration, Commerce, Natural Resources, and Pollution Control Agency (leads of Workgroups); and
3. Three rotating (two year terms) agency members selected to represent various aspects of agencies (size, owned/leased facilities, location, etc.)

ii. Duties:

1. Set priorities for Office of Enterprise Sustainability, Workgroups, and Agencies;
2. Approve changes in sustainability goals and plans to achieve the sustainability goals;
3. Review progress of the enterprise as a whole, and the progress of individual agencies; and
4. Meet at least twice a year.

b. **Office of Enterprise Sustainability (OES) at Department**

i. Duties:

1. Manage sustainability metrics and reporting system, including public dashboard for Minnesotans to track progress;
2. Help state agencies overcome challenges they may have reaching sustainability goals;
3. Educate agencies on sustainability best practices, tools and resources through a network of agency sustainability coordinators and the Workgroups;
4. Assist agencies with development of their sustainability plans;
5. Administrate the Productivity Loan Fund for the Productivity Loan Committee; and
6. Publish an annual report which will be approved by the Sustainability Steering Team and shared with the public on the OES website and presentation to the Environmental Quality Board.

c. **Sustainability Workgroups**

i. The following workgroups will be established:

1. Fleet – lead agency: Department of Administration; supporting agencies: Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, and Department of Public Safety;
2. Energy, Water & Greenhouse Gas – lead agency: Department of Commerce; supporting agencies: Department of Natural Resources and Pollution Control Agency; and

3. Solid Waste & Procurement - lead agency: Pollution Control Agency; supporting agency: Department of Administration.

ii. Duties:

1. Recommend solutions to achieve the sustainability goals and measure progress of agencies;
2. Identify barriers to accomplishing sustainability goals and develop tools and resources to eliminate them;
3. Share best practices and serve as a community of practitioners that is an education resource to agencies; and
4. Meet at least quarterly.

iii. Membership:

1. Each cabinet agency shall send, to each workgroup meeting, a representative(s) that works on each of the issues covered.

3. **State Agency Responsibilities.** Each cabinet agency will participate in the sustainability efforts in the following ways:

- a. Establish an internal process to ensure progress towards the sustainability goals, and designate a person to serve as the agency's sustainability coordinator;
- b. Work with OES to create an agency sustainability action plan to achieve goals. The plan should be reviewed annually and updated as needed to achieve the sustainability goals;
- c. Make smart and strategic choices to meet the state's sustainability goals and the agency's business needs, which may include, but is not limited to:
  - i. Increase the number of hybrid and electric vehicles in the state fleet;
  - ii. Seek energy efficiency improvements in agency leased and owned spaces;
  - iii. Where the state leases buildings, incorporate sustainability requirements in the leases utilizing the model "Green Leases";
  - iv. Purchase sustainable options on state contracts;
  - v. Increase the renewable resources in agency energy portfolios; and
  - vi. Implement traditional recycling and, when available organics recycling programs;
- d. Immediately track and report on agency's results to OES;
- e. Send to the workgroups a representative(s) that works on each of the issues covered, including periodically volunteering for a subgroup;
- f. Participate in informational and educational campaigns across state government aimed at modifying workplace, employee, and vendor behaviors to be more sustainable; and
- g. Encourage advancement of sustainability through activities outside of state government operations (e.g. contracts, grants, etc.)

State agencies and boards that are not members of the cabinet shall take steps towards the sustainability goals to the best of their abilities, however they are not required to participate at the level of cabinet agencies.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 4.035, subdivision 2, this Executive Order is effective 15 days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State.

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand on this 21st day of November, 2017.



Mark Dayton  
Governor

Filed According to Law:



Steve Simon  
Secretary of State

